

For: VETERANS OF THE OSS

Contact: Jesse Taub

STAT

July 5, 1979
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHABAN-DELMAS, FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, TO BE AWARDED
DONOVAN MEDAL BY VETERANS OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Jacques Chaban-Delmas, President of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister of France, has been selected as the recipient of the William J. Donovan medal by the Veterans of the Office of Strategic Services.

The medal is awarded to individuals who have rendered distinguished service in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Chaban-Delmas became Prime Minister in 1969 and served until 1972. He has been a member of the Chamber of Deputies since 1946 and was President of the National Assembly from 1958 to 1969 and again since 1978. He is also Mayor of Bordeaux, a post he has held since 1947.

A prominent figure in the French resistance force (FFI) during World War II, Mr. Chaban-Delmas was General DeGaulle's military representative with the French combat resistance units. He was named a Brigadier General at the age of 29, and played a key role in the liberation of Paris.

As a member of DeGaulle's cabinet after the war, Mr. Chaban-Delmas served as Minister of Defense, Minister of State and Minister of Public Works.

The new Donovan honoree holds France's highest military decoration, the Compagnon de la Liberation. He was also awarded the Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre. He was awarded the Legion of

- more -

Merit by the United States and has been decorated by Great Britain, Belgium, Poland and Spain.

Geoffrey M. T. Jones, President of the Veterans of the OSS, said the purpose of the award is to foster the tradition and spirit of service which General William J. Donovan, Founder and Director of the OSS and one of America's leading citizen-soldiers, rendered in his private and public capacities.

Among the distinguished recipients of the award are General of the Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen and the Astronauts of Apollo II.

The award will be presented at a dinner in Washington, D.C. on September 25.